

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ANKARA 06113 061849Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01

AID-05 MC-02 ACDA-10 EB-07 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00

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O R 061615Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 276

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

USUN NEW YORK 2078

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

DIRNSA WASHDC

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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SUBJ: TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AT
ECEVIT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: ANKARA 6079

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 06113 061849Z

BELOW ARE EXCERPTS OF REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN ECEVIT'S REMARKS ON THE ISSUES OF THE ARMS EMBARGO, U.S. INSTALLATIONS AND CYPRUS DURING THE QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PORTION OF HIS AUGUST 4 PRESS CONFERENCE. EMBASSY TRANSLATION FROM A TRANSCRIPT PROVIDED BY THE RPP.)

BEGIN TEXT:

Q. IN VIEW OF THE LATEST SITUATION, I.E., THE REFUSAL OF THE UNITED STATES TO LIFT THE EMBARGO, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT CLOSING DOWN THE AMERICAN BASES IS NECESSARY?

A. THESE INSTALLATIONS ARE BASED ON A COMMON DEFENSE SYSTEM AND ON THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS DERIVING FROM THIS SYSTEM. AS THE GOVERNMENT HAS CLEARLY INDICATED IN RECENT DAYS, SINCE AMERICA HAS UNILATERALLY VIOLATED THESE AGREEMENTS, IT IS NATURAL FOR THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER THESE AGREEMENTS INVALID. THE GOVERNMENT HAS STATED THAT THIS IS THE WAY IT THINKS AND DOES. THINKING THIS WAY, THESE INSTALLATIONS SHOULD BE ELIMINATED. IN ANY CASE, I CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE AMERICAN PERSONNEL, EVEN VOLUNTARILY, ARE CONTINUING TO STAY AT THESE INSTALLATIONS. HOWEVER IT MAY BE, THIS OPENS THE WAY FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE IMPRESSION ABROAD THAT TURKEY IS UNDECIDED. SOME OF THESE BASES MAY BE SUITABLE FOR REST AND RECREATION, BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY THE SAME FOR SOME OTHERS OF THEM. THEREFORE AS THEY HAVE NO WORK, WHY ARE THE PERSONNEL STILL THERE? IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN. I MYSELF COULD NOT EXPLAIN IT.

Q. WHEN YOU STATE THAT THESE BASES SHOULD BE ELIMINATED, DO YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT THEY SHOULD BE CLOSED DOWN?

A. NATURALLY, BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE, I COULD NOT KNOW. THIS WOULD DEPEND ON THE FUTURE COURSE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH AMERICA, AND IN GENERAL THOSE WITH THE WEST.

Q. THE NEWS OF RECENT DAYS, ESPECIALLY THE NEWS ORIGINATING IN HELSINKI, EMPHASIZED ONE POINT. TURKEY MUST GIVE TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS FOR THE SOLUTION OF CYPRUS AND WITHDRAW PART OF ITS FORCES. HAVE WE REALLY COME
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PAGE 03 ANKARA 06113 061849Z

TO THIS POINT FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM? IF YOU WOULD PERMIT BROADENING THIS QUESTION, IF YOU CAME TO POWER THROUGH AN EARLY ELECTION TOMORROW BY YOURSELF, HOW WOULD YOU SOLVE THIS PROBLEM FROM THIS ASPECT?

A. FIRST OF ALL, WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS IN IMPORTANT NUMBERS BY TURKEY FROM CYPRUS DEPENDS ON THE REALIZATION OF A SOLUTION IN THE ISLAND WHICH WILL SATISFY TURKEY AND THE

TURKISH CYPRIOTS IN EVERY ASPECT. OUR UNITS ARE THERE BECAUSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND TO ESTABLISH SECURITY IN THE TURKISH SECTOR OF THE ISLAND. THEY ARE THERE IN ORDER TO PREVENT A NEW FIAT ACCOMPLI OF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS AND GREEKS, AND FOR THE SECURITY OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS. FOR THIS REASON, IN MY OPINION, TURKEY CANNOT GIVE ANY CONCESSION OR MAKE ANY PROMISE TO ANYBODY UNTIL A SOLUTION IS SECURED WHICH WILL GIVE CONFIDENCE TO US AND TO THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS. TURKEY CAN ONLY WEIGH ITS OWN NEEDS AND SAY: "THE OPERATION IS OVER, AND I DON'T NEED TROOPS MORE THAN A CERTAIN NUMBER." TURKEY CAN WITHDRAW SOME OF THE TROOPS, BUT TURKEY DOESN'T EVEN NEED TO CONVEY THIS INFORMATION TO FOREIGNERS. THIS IS COMPLETELY AN INTERNAL PROBLEM OF TURKEY. AS TO THE SUBJECT OF FRONTIERS, I HAVE POINTED OUT IN MY STATEMENTS WHILE IN GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS IN THE OPPOSITION, AND RECENTLY, THAT A HEALTHY AGREEMENT CANNOT DEPEND ON RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS; IT CAN DEPEND ONLY ON LONG TERM MUTUAL INTERESTS TAKING LONG TERM CALCULATIONS INTO CONSIDERATION. WITHIN THE CONCEPT OF SUCH A CONCILIATION, THE PARTIES MAY TAKE RECIPROCAL STEPS AND IT WOULD NOT BE ACCURATE TO TERM THESE STEPS CONCESSIONS. I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT AS LONG AS THE SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM REMAINS PENDING. THIS SOLUTION BECOMES HARDER TO ACHIEVE. NOT ONLY DOES IT BECOME HARDER TO ACHIEVE, BUT TURKEY BEGINS TO FACE MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD. AS I POINTED OUT IN MY PREVIOUS CONFERENCE ON JULY 20, THE AMERICAN EMBARGO AND THE GENERAL AMERICAN ATTITUDE MAKE IT HARD FOR TURKEY PSYCHOLOGICALLY TO TAKE STEPS ON THIS SUBJECT. BUT WE SHOULD OVERCOME THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL DIFFICULTY WITHIN OURSELVES, WITHIN OUR OWN HEADS. IN FACT THERE MAY BE WAYS TO COMPLETELY ELIMINATE THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL DIFFICULTY. THAT IS, POLITICAL MEANS CAN BE FOUND TO TAKE CERTAIN STEPS WITHOUT GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE ACTING UNDER AMERICAN PRESSURE AND

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PAGE 04 ANKARA 06113 061849Z

THREATS. BUT I DON'T FIND ANY USE IN STATING MY OPINION IN A MORE CONCRETE MANNER ON THIS SUBJECT AT THIS POINT.

Q. IN ONE PART OF YOUR SPEECH YOU STATED THAT THE OPERATION OF THE BASE AT ADANA IS HARMFUL, IF I AM NOT MISTAKEN. SHOULD TURKEY REVISE ITS RELATIONS WITH NATO?

A. WE CANNOT SEPARATE OUR RELATIONS WITH NATO FROM OUR RELATIONS WITH AMERICA BEYOND A CERTAIN POINT. THIS A REALITY. AND INCIRLIK BASE WAS AN AMERICAN BASE OR INSTALLATION UNTIL YESTERDAY. TO SAY AHAT "IT WILL HENCEFORTH BE A NATO BASE OR INSTALLATION" DOES NOT HAVE ANY MEANING. IT HAS NO CREDIBILITY. IT WILL MEAN THAT AMERICA WILL CONTINUE TO USE IT AS BEFORE. EVERYBODY IN THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE AMERICANS, WILL UNDERSTAND IT IN THIS MANNER. FURTHER-

MORE I THINK I STATED THIS IN MY SPEECH--INCIRLIK HAS A SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. INCIRLIK IS AN INSTALLATION WHICH WILL NOT EASILY BE REPLACED IN THIS REGION. DISCREPANCIES DERIVING FROM THE INACTIVITY OF THE INSTALLATIONS CONCERNING INTELLIGENCE, OBSERVATION, OBSERVATION IN ITS TECHNICAL MEANING, CAN BE ELIMINATED IN CERTAIN MEASURE THROUGH THE PRESENT TECHNICAL FACILITIES. BUT INCIRLIK'S PLACE CANNOT BE EASILY FILLED. FOR THIS REASON, TURKEY NOW APPEARS NOT TO HAVE TAKEN A SUFFICIENTLY DETERMINED STEP BY NOT STOPPING THE OPERATION OF INCIRLIK UNDER THE APPEARANCE OR THE GUISE OF NATO.

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